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Matheson issues statement on bipartisan fiscal reform commission

Washington, DC – Today, Representative Jim Matheson (D-UT), Co-Chair of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, issued the following statement after President Obama indicated he would sign an executive order establishing the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

“There are two things that Congress can do right now to begin reducing deficits and put the country back on a fiscally sustainable path. One is to reinstate the statutory pay-as-you-go rules that were successful in bringing about budget surpluses in the 90’s. The other is to establish a fiscal commission to reform government spending in the event that Congress fails to act.

“We took a significant step in the right direction when the President signed PAYGO into law last week. Today we are building on that momentum with this announcement of a bipartisan fiscal reform commission, a necessary step to getting our fiscal house in order. A commission will not only identify ways to balance the budget, but also lay the groundwork for fiscally sustainable policies over the long run – something that has eluded both Republicans and Democrats in Congress for many years.

“Restoring fiscal discipline to our federal government is not going to be easy, and success will require members on both sides of the aisle to rise above partisan politics and put forth their best ideas. The growing debt is not only a threat to our future economic prosperity, but to our national security; we have a responsibility to address this problem now.”

The fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 54 members of the Blue Dog Coalition. For more information, visit the Blue Dog Website at <http://www.house.gov/melancon/BlueDogs/>.

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